



# The Church Herald

Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist), Stony Brook, New York



## STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Please send updates and information to  
Newsletter Editor, Bob Retnauer, at  
bobretnauer@optimum.net



## An Important Invitation From Pastor Chuck

Dear members and friends of Stony Brook Community Church,

This coming fall our church and all others who would like to participate will be treated to the best bible study, by far, that I have ever had the privilege of leading (or participating in): Disciple Bible Study! In my last year at Mamaroneck UMC over 30 adult members experienced this dynamic program, and over my 12 years at Centerport UMC Disciple was facilitated 7 times bringing the experience to almost 100 adults. In addition, approximately 50 youth completed Disciple for Youth over the years as part of their confirmation curriculum.

I believe it is time to offer this amazing study here at SBCC. Please know that if you choose to take this study group you will not regret it. It is on a level all its own. It has been experienced by hundreds of thousands United Methodists in the last 15 years and many other denominations have begun using this bible study because of its spiritual depth, ease of use, and biblical breadth. I am very excited to be leading this study again as it has always been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. Knowing the people here at SBCC I would only expect as meaningful of an experience for all.

Following, please find frequently asked questions and information on this dynamic study. I pray you will strongly consider signing up for Disciple Bible Study this September. God bless you!

In God's love, joy and hope,  
**Pastor Chuck**

### NYAC VISION STATEMENT

The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God, embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heartwarmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.



# **DISCIPLE** Bible studies

## **Disciple Bible Study is Coming!**

### ***What is Disciple Bible Study?***

Disciple Bible Study is a United Methodist based program of somewhat intensive, disciplined Bible study. Each study group is made up of 8-14 participants led by one or two facilitators. Groups meet weekly for 2.5 hours for 34 weeks. Disciple I, the prerequisite for all other Disciple Bible Studies, covers the entire Biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation. Subsequent studies take Disciple graduates deeper into selected portions of Scripture.

### ***What kind of preparation does each class require?***

Each weekly lesson has 6 days of daily note-taking on Bible readings and a commentary. It takes most people 20-30 minutes to complete each daily assignment. Participants are expected to come prepared to share thoughts and insights with their classmates.

### ***What is the curriculum for Disciple Bible Study?***

The curriculum for Disciple Bible Study is the Bible and a weekly study guide with commentary and insightful leading questions. Disciple Bible Study's study guide draws upon the work of scholars from the United Methodist Church and other denominations and faiths to aid understanding of the Bible.

### ***How much does it cost to participate?***

Disciple Bible Study materials cost approximately \$40. Limited scholarships are available.

### ***What happens during a weekly group meeting?***

Each week's meeting follows a consistent structure consisting of small group & large group discussion, a video, and sharing prayer concerns. During each class, participants engage with the biblical text and seek to apply it to their own lives. The leader of the group is a learner among learners and participates as a group member while also facilitating the process.

### ***What is a Disciple Bible Study group like?***

Disciple Bible Study groups develop strong relationships within the group, and over time, members become very comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings with one another. Group meetings maintain confidentiality, which allows trust and accountability among members to flourish. Attendance at each meeting is expected. It is recommended that you not miss more than 2 – 3 classes per semester. There are two semesters over the course of the 34 weeks. Semester 1 is on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), and semester 2 is a study of the New Testament.



# DISCIPLE Bible studies

It sounds like a really big commitment. Why should I take Disciple Bible Study?

Participating in Disciple Bible Study is a somewhat daunting commitment - at first. But remember, it pays big dividends! Many graduates describe it as “life-changing.” Most people find that their knowledge and understanding of the Bible increases dramatically, but they also find their lives being transformed by the power of God working through God’s Word and the support, encouragement, and challenge of the group.

While most people have trouble imagining making a weekly commitment for 34 weeks, by week 7 or 8 they are pleasantly surprised at how it has worked its way into their lives and they look forward to attending each week. By the end of the study people often have trouble imagining their lives without this weekly study group that has become much more than a study group, and often plan reunions or choose to take part in a second tier Disciple Bible Study within the following year.

Some Thoughts from Disciple Participants:

I was drawn to Disciple study by a deep curiosity and desire to understand the Bible better. Little did I know that my world would be shaken by the death of my husband midway through the first series of the study. I know that the Lord placed me with this group, they allowed me to grieve, they comforted me and listened to me. I am so grateful for the knowledge and faith that were given to me; and especially for the forever friends that I have been blessed with in the members of my class.  
- Nancy

It has been a joy to participate in Disciple Bible Study classes. I whole-heartily recommend it to anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of scriptures... It is simply amazing the insights the Holy Spirit gives you as you discuss the readings in class. It is a journey of discovery and re-discovery. A word of caution: You will find yourself forming a spiritual family in these courses. Those relationships grow very deep and lasting. - Tim

This group provided an open space in which to share and discuss the implications of discipleship in our lives. - Anonymous

I grew each week as a Christian. - Anonymous

A wonderful, life-changing course. – Anonymous

DBS was like a powerful Spiritual Multivitamin that I found myself needing to take every day. - Brandy

I didn’t just like it, I loved it. - Anonymous

We have learned much about God in this journey - about His need to be in a loving relationship with ALL of His children and our need to be in a loving relationship with Him. - Anonymous





## Lectionary Readings

June 29, 2014

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1–14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:40–42

July 6, 2014

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67

Psalms 45:10–17 or Psalm 72

Romans 7:15–25a

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 13, 2014

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19–34

Psalms 119:105–112 or Psalm 25 Romans  
8:1–11

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 20, 2014

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10–19a

Psalms 139:1–12, 23–24

Romans 8:12–25

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 27, 2014

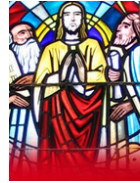
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15–28

Psalms 105:1–11, 45b

Romans 8:26–39

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52



## *Trustees*

### Trustees Report

The trustees of SBCC meet monthly to manage and maintain our property. The board consists of nine members who serve for three years. Many of our members have served two or more terms.

Some of the projects undertaken this year:

Parsonage:

New windows

New kitchen and bathrooms

Refinishing basement

Landscaping and tree removal

School:

NSMS signed another ten year lease

New heating system to be installed this summer

Modifications of classrooms to accommodate  
younger children

Updating bathrooms

New lightning has been installed throughout  
the building

Sullivan House

New roof and chimney

Landscaping and sprinkler system installed

Exterior work needed including painting

Church

Landscaping completed and sprinkler system installed

Future plans include air conditioning and new  
sound system

We also manage two rental properties and the Op Shop on Christian Ave.

All our members have worked diligently and have spent many hours maintaining our property.

*Carolyn Martin*

# July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 MYF	30 7:00 (pm) AA 9:00-3:00 PAC	1 7:00 (pm) Finance Committee 9:00-3:00 PAC	2 9:00-3:00 PAC	3 9:00-3:00 PAC 6:00 AA	4 4 <sup>th</sup> of July – Office Closed! 10:00 AIAnon	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	7 9:00-3:00 PAC 7:00 (pm) AA	8 9:00-3:00 PAC	9 9:00-3:00 PAC	10 9:00-3:00 PAC 6:00 AA	11 9:00-3:00 PAC 10:00 AIAnon	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	14 9:00-3:00 PAC 7:00 (pm) AA	15 9:00-3:00 PAC 7:30 (pm) Church Council	16 9:00-3:00 PAC 5:30 Church Picnic	17 9:00-3:00 PAC 6:00 AA	18 9:00-3:00 PAC 10:00 AIAnon	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	21 9:00-3:00 PAC 7:00 (pm) AA	22 9:00-3:00 PAC 7:30 (pm) Trustees	23 9:00-3:00 PAC	24 9:00-3:00 PAC 6:00 AA	25 10:00 AIAnon 9:00-3:00 PAC 2:00 PAC Performance	26
27 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	28 7:00 (pm) AA 7:30 Book Club	29 7:30 (pm) Finance Committee	30	31 6:00 AA 7:00 Car Show Mtg	1 10:00 AIAnon	2



*On June 15th we welcomed the following persons  
into membership in Stony Brook Community Church.*

**Richard and Barbara Beresford** have lived in the Three Village Area since 1963. Barbara is retired after 32 years as an Administrative Assistant in the SUNY Stony Brook History Department and loves to travel. Prior to retiring Richard owned a carpentry/home improvement business and taught carpentry. A key interest at this stage of his life is music. They came to SBCC because they heard Pastor Chuck is “very inspirational.”

**Ron Hausske** has come to Stony Brook with his wife Kate who grew up in the church and their children Maddie (now 3) and Millie (1 ½). Ron is a teacher in the Great Neck public schools and is interested in photography, art, graphic design, and pretty much anything in the great outdoors. Even before he joined the church Ron (with Kate) has been our Children and Youth Coordinator. The Hausske family moved back to Long island in September 2013.

**Margaret Krebs** came to SBCC when her former pastor suggested she try us. She is the Assistant Business Development Manager for American Maintenance and in her spare time enjoys singing, collecting angels, dancing, acting, and reading. She was a certified worship leader at her former church and would be interested in helping start a contemporary worship service and a young adult group.

**Karin Lynch** has lived in the Three Village area since 1970 and her family used to be members of SBCC. She is the Administrative Assistant at Bryant Funeral Home (whom we thank for their long history of support) and is interested in history.

**Don and Donna McNaughton** with their children Janine, Caroline, and Aidan were members of the Centerport United Methodist church where Pastor Chuck was their Pastor. Pastor Chuck confirmed three of the family’s four children and connected with all as a family. After Pastor Chuck left Centerport the family missed his sermons so decided as a family to transfer their membership to SBCC after attending the Easter Sunday service. Don is a sales representative with ABC Stone, a marble and granite supplier. Three of their four children are also joining: Janine, a senior studying nursing at Molloy College; Caroline, a sophomore studying biochemistry at SUNY Stony Brook; and Aidan, an incoming freshman in mechanical engineering at SUNY Stony Brook. Their fourth child Caitlin is an attorney.

**A. J. Quackenbush** is an aspiring math teacher who came to SBCC on Easter and liked what he experienced. This summer he is working as a teaching assistant. His interests include football, math, and teaching math.



**July 24-26, 2014**

Join us at **Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut.**  
We have reserved a block of rooms at the **Ethan Allen Hotel** near the campus.

All are Welcome! Women, men, clergy, laity, youth and children.

On-line registration and forms are available on the web site,

**<http://nyac.com/missionu>**

and from your Conference and District UMW teams.



### **2014 Mission Studies**

Spiritual growth:

**How Is It with Your Soul?**

English: Rev. Cecil Stone, Faye Wilson, Daryl Norman

Korean: Rev. Juhye Hahn

Geographic:

**The Roma of Europe**

English: Lija Kim

Issue:

**The Church and People with Disabilities**

English: Rev. Evy McDonald

Korean: Rev. Miyoung Kang

Spanish: Ximena Diaz-Varas

All adults at the school will select **one** of the above three studies.

**Children and Youth Study** [3 classes: grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12]:  
**The Church and People with Disabilities**

*Can't Get Away for 3 Days? Try Saturday@Mission u!*  
*Saturday, July 26, 2014, 8:00am – 5:00pm*  
*Adult Mission Study: (English only) How Is It with Your Soul?*

**NYAC Mission u: Dean: Patricia Knebel; Assistant Dean: Deborah C. Jenkins**  
**Registrar: Janet Keyes, (860) 285-0389, jeksom@comcast.net**





## A Way Forward - From Bishop Hagiya's blog...

It is a little obvious, but The United Methodist Church is in the midst of some major transition challenges. As the church and society reacts to the Frank Schaefer trial and Bishop Melvin Talbert's blessing of a same gender wedding in another Bishop's area, the tensions from within and outside the church heighten our cultural conflicts.

Recently, our Council of Bishops had to deal squarely with this issue, as Bishop Talbert disregarded the request of the Resident Bishop of North Alabama, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, and went ahead to perform a blessing of the wedding of Bobby Prince and Joe Openshaw. I know both of these Bishops personally, and I have the utmost respect for the integrity of both of them.

Our Council of Bishops Executive Team asked Bishop Talbert not to be involved in this same gender blessing, but Bishop Talbert, acting out of his personal convictions, went ahead with the blessing. It was an action that the Council of Bishops could not ignore, and we dealt with it extensively in Executive Session (closed session). I am bound by the confidentiality of our covenant as Bishops, so the details of our discussions cannot be shared in public.

However, I believe I can share that there were two issues at stake for the Council of Bishops: One is the issue of our covenant with each other, as what does it mean for a retired Bishop to disregard the request of an active Bishop in whose area of responsibility an action is taken. The second issue is the Council of Bishop's action when a Bishop commits an act of ecclesial disobedience. I believe the former was more important to the Council of Bishops than the latter.

It is a matter of public record, and was expressed a number of times, that there have been examples of historical precedence of United Methodist Bishops disregarding the request of fellow residential Bishops by coming to their area to protest racial civil rights violations. This happened during the height of the civil rights movement in our country, and out of personal convictions, some of our UMC Bishops traveled to another Bishop's area to stand in solidarity with those fighting for the civil rights of African Americans. History has proven that such violations of the covenant were acceptable and right.

I am of the opinion that we face a similar situation when it comes to the rights of LGBTQ persons currently. Only the passing of time will tell if we are right in this conviction, but I believe we are witnessing the same situation of equal justice for all. It was for this reason that I stood outside the majority vote of the Council of Bishops on the questions of whether Bishop Talbert should be charged for his actions.

As I have stated many times in the past, I acknowledge my human sinfulness, and do not presume to believe that my position is the unequivocal truth. I cannot know God's Truth on this issue, and can only stand on my limited conviction of what I believe. I will not force my convictions on those who believe the opposite. Like all of you, I only know what I believe is right, and I need to be in constant prayer and discernment.

Our United Methodist Church is in for some tough sledding now and in the future, but I believe that there is a way forward for our church. It must begin with our return to prayer, study, and deep discernment. Only in this deep place of spiritual depth will we find a way forward. We cannot resort to beating each other up because we are on opposite sides of this issue. We need to model the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ in our relationships. This means we need to do the hard work of sharing openly how we disagree, not to try to convert the other, but to work to a greater understanding and acceptance of our differences. This is what it means to be unified in Christ Jesus: It is not a bland acceptance of everything, but to hold together even when we vehemently disagree with each other.

This is what I am asking of all of us. Let us be open to really hear each other, not attempt to destroy the convictions that are opposite to our own, and finally come to an acceptance of each other, even when we disagree with each other. It is hard, hard work that I am asking of us, but God never promised that it would be easy for us as Christians. In fact, Jesus told us that it was going to be the most difficult work we have ever done. This is the cost of discipleship, and the reason that I am a Christian. For in going through the fire, we will find a greater truth, and in the end, God will be waiting for us.

*This post originally appeared on Bishop Hagiya's blog and is republished here with permission.*





# Church Council Report

June 17,2014

The Church Council met this month on June 17th . Committee and program reports were heard from Trustees, Finance, UMW, Apple Festival, and Youth and Sunday School. Council reviewed the events from the recent Apple Festival Signage Day and Moving Up/New Members Sunday. Thanks go to all those who participated and made each day a success!

Going forward, PAC is scheduled to begin June 30th with plans for a Shakespearean experience. We look forward to the performance on July 25th . Out annual church picnic is scheduled for July 16th at the Stony Brook Shores beach so get your chairs and towels ready!

Youth have started the ambitious project of constructing games for the children’s area at the Apple Festival! You can see them working Sunday evenings and sometimes on Facebook postings. A fundraiser for new canopies began last Sunday, June 22nd and will run for several weeks. Be sure to check it out and help us to purchase much needed new canopies for our fair!

Do you know the names of everyone at church each Sunday? Well, not all of us do. That is why the Membership/Worship committee is asking us all to make and wear nametags every Sunday. Tags will be available in the narthex as you enter church. In the future we hope to have more permanent tags that we can reuse each week!

Donna Smith

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## Choir News

*O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!— PSALM 95:1-2*

Stony Brook Community Church has enjoyed yet another year of inspired and inspiring music under the leadership of Choir Director Valerie Grehan and Music Director Joan Wingerter. At this time we’d like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated musicians who so enrich our worship:

Malcolm Bowman	Waveney Bowman
Michele Dexter	Bob Ellinger
Bill Hamilton	Jason Haushalter
Margaret Krebs	Kathy Martin
Henry Poor	Laura Reed
Carla Retnauer	Chuck Van Houten

And of course Val Grehan and Joan Wingerter.

As a reminder, during the summer we look to volunteer singers and instrumentalists to lead us while the choir is on its summer break. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this form of ministry please speak to Joan Wingerter.



Ron & Kate  
here!

SBCC  
youth

MYF  
news

It's been an exciting (and productive) spring for the youth of the church and summer is going to be a busy time, too!

**We are planning to:**

- ☐ Rejuvenate the Apple Festival's Kid's Area - it will take a lot of hard work from our youth (and fun, too, of course!)

When: **Sunday Evening's**  
Dates: **To be determined**

- ☐ Play softball!  
youth show off  
Betz), and the



We are hoping to play youth vs. adults as the their athleticism and secret weapon (Alex adults show off their gusto!

- ☐ Go on some field trips: Laser Tag? Mini Golf? Rock Climbing? Trampolining? Movies? *The sky is the limit!*

MYF Meets **EVERY SUNDAY** at 5:00pm

Child  
Chatter

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the children during **Moving Up Sunday**. It was a small, warm gathering to recognize the end to a year of hard work, learning, and fun.

**Going Forward**

We are looking for **volunteers** to teach Sunday School 1 - 2 times per month. Don't worry, we'll do the work for you! (plans, materials, set-up, etc.)

Please see Ron or Kate To find out more details and To express your unwavering interest

Who??? The New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Hurricane Sandy Recovery Ministries

What??? "Done in a Day" The concept is simple:  
Volunteer individually or in teams for a day

**Start Early....End Late....Done in a Day!**

Volunteers will be assigned to work on a specific project and while the project may not be completed in a day, it is our hope that teams will help move the projects along in a timely manner.

When?? Wednesdays and Saturdays, depending on availability. Please contact local site manager. Possible dates available are:

July 9, 19, 23

August 2, 6, 16, 20

September 6, 20

Where?? Long Island Contact: Peggy Racine (516) 795-1322

Staten Island Contact: Samantha Christian (347) 252-7979

Brooklyn Contact: Gillian Prince (718) 594-7972

Why?? There is much more work to be done to return our residents to safe, sanitary and habitable homes.

The New York Annual Conference Sandy Recovery Ministries:  
Tom Vencuss-Coordinator, Disaster Recovery Ministries/Sandy Recovery

[tvencuss@nyvac.com](mailto:tvencuss@nyvac.com)

Gina Grubbs-Project Support/Communications

[gina.grubbs@nyvac-umc.com](mailto:gina.grubbs@nyvac-umc.com)

Wendy Vencuss-Coordinator, Spiritual/Emotional Care

[wvencuss@umc.com](mailto:wvencuss@umc.com)



**Long Island  
Summer  
"Daycation"  
Done in a  
Day!!!**

To volunteer please call:  
Peggy Racine:  
(516) 795-1322

**WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS  
THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!!!  
COME OUT AND HELP THOSE WHO  
NEED IT MOST....ONE DAY AT A  
TIME!!**





## Jump Shoot Score for Imagine No Malaria



**NYAC vs MALARIA**

### **Jump Shoot Score, A conference-wide fundraiser for Imagine No Malaria Saturday, July 19th, 2 pm at Hofstra University.**

Featuring the Harlem Wizards and the UM Districts Skeeter Defeater Teams. Tickets and information available at <http://www.nyac.com/>. Lots to enjoy!

Fri, July 18 8 pm CCYM Lock In Hicksville

July 19 11:30 Mini Basketball Camp ages 6 - 13

July 19 1:45 UM Sing-along with Wendy Paige

Wizard souvenirs and Hofstra concession stand available.



United Methodist Camps are now accepting registrations: for full information and registration forms please go to <http://ny-email.brtaapp.com/viewarchive/3445> or pick up some of the camp literature in the Community Room.





## **The Willow Creek Church Global Leadership Summit 2014 20th Anniversary Year**

Greetings.

For many years I had the privilege of attending the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit with members of my church. It is a two-day summit of church leaders and business leaders from around the world focused on becoming better leaders and church leaders. It is two days of inspirational messages, discussion groups, and live interviews with people like Jimmy Carter, Condoleezza Rice, Bill Hybels (founder of Willow Creek Church), Colin Powell, TV Producer Mark Burnett, Elton John, and Andy Stanley to name a few.

There are also very practical resources for church leadership offered at the summit as well as inspirational suggestions and tools for leading the church into the future in relevant and powerful ways. Many of the sermon series and studies I have led in recent years have come from ideas and books from the GLS. It is a wonderful two days of fellowship, worship, discussion, singing and praising God together.

The local host satellite location that we would attend with other area Methodists and Christians from other denominations would be at The Shelter Rock Church in Syosset. This years Summit will meet on Thursday and Friday, August 14 & 15th, 2014. Cost per person is \$159.00 (Limited partial scholarships are available). While I realize this is not a small amount, the dividends that this summit could pay for you and for our church are immeasurable.

Below is a brief summery available on the GLC website. For further information go to <http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/> and/or talk with me about it.

I hope you will prayerfully consider attending the GLS with me this year if you are able. I look forward to see you on Sundays.

In the mean time, may God bless you and keep you.

Yours in God's love and hope  
Pastor Chuck

### **ABOUT THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day, world-class leadership event experienced by more than 170,000 leaders around the world, representing more than 14,000 churches. It's telecast LIVE from Willow's campus (near Chicago) every August. Throughout the fall, Summit events take place in an additional 300+ cities, 92 countries—and translated into 42 languages. This event is crafted to infuse vision, skill development and inspiration for the sake of local church transformation.